

Serial No. 09/591,349
Filed June 9, 2000
Page 2 of 10

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Claim 1-4 canceled.

5. (original) A communications cable comprising:
a cable jacket;
a spacer extending within the cable jacket, the spacer having a longitudinally extending center portion and plurality of longitudinally extending wall portions radiating from the center portion, the longitudinally extending wall portions increasing in thickness over only a portion thereof from the center portion to the cable jacket, the spacer and the cable jacket defining a plurality of compartments within the cable jacket; and
a twisted pair of insulated conductors disposed in one of the plurality of compartments.
6. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 5 further comprising a plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors disposed in respective ones of the plurality of compartments.
7. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 6 wherein each of the plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors has a different lay length.
8. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 7 wherein the plurality of longitudinally extending wall portions are configured so as to define a plurality of compartments of a helical configuration within the cable jacket and the plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors located within the plurality of compartments extend helically about the longitudinal axis of the cable.
9. (currently amended) A communications cable comprising:
a cable jacket;

Serial No. 09/591,349
Filed June 9, 2000
Page 3 of 10

a spacer extending within the cable jacket, the spacer having a longitudinally extending center portion and plurality of longitudinally extending wall portions radiating from the center portion such that the cross-section of the spacer is radially symmetric, the longitudinally extending wall portions decreasing in thickness over only a portion thereof from the center portion to the cable jacket, the spacer and the cable jacket defining a plurality of compartments within the cable jacket; and

a twisted pair of insulated conductors disposed in one of the plurality of compartments;

wherein the compartments are configured such that distances between pairs of twisted pairs of insulated conductors that are in diametrically opposed compartments are substantially the same.

10. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 9 further comprising a plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors disposed in respective ones of the plurality of compartments.

11. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 10 wherein each of the plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors has a different lay length.

12. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 11 wherein the plurality of longitudinally extending wall portions are configured so as to define a plurality of compartments of a helical configuration within the cable jacket and the plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors located within the plurality of compartments extend helically about the longitudinal axis of the cable.

13. (currently amended) A communications cable comprising:
a cable jacket;

a spacer extending within said cable jacket, the spacer being formed of and having an outer surface of a polymeric material and having a longitudinally extending center portion and plurality of longitudinally extending wall portions radiating from said center portion such that the cross-section of the spacer is radially symmetric, the longitudinally extending wall

Serial No. 09/591,349
Filed June 9, 2000
Page 4 of 10

portions having a first radial section that increases in thickness with distance from the center portion and a second radial section that decreases in thickness with distance from the center portion, the spacer and the cable jacket defining a plurality of compartments within the cable jacket; and

a twisted pair of insulated conductors disposed in at least one of the compartments;
wherein the compartments are configured such that distances between pairs of twisted pairs of insulated conductors that are in diametrically opposed compartments are substantially the same.

14. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 13 wherein the first radial section is located between the center portion and the second radial section.

15. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 13 wherein the second radial section is located between the center portion and the first radial section.

16. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 13 wherein the first radial section and the second radial section are configured such that the plurality of longitudinally extending wall portions have a convex shaped cross-section.

17. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 16 wherein the convex shaped cross-section is arcuate.

18. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 16 wherein the convex shaped cross-section comprises a plurality of faces.

19. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 13 wherein the first radial section and the second radial section are configured such that the plurality of longitudinally extending wall portions have a concave shaped cross-section.

20. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 19 wherein the concave shaped cross-section is arcuate.

Serial No. 09/591,349

Filed June 9, 2000

Page 5 of 10

21. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 19 wherein the concave shaped cross-section comprises a plurality of faces.

22. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 13 wherein the first radial section and second radial section are configured such that the plurality of longitudinally extending wall portions have a recessed portion.

23. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 13 wherein the first radial section and second radial section are configured such that the plurality of longitudinally extending wall portions have a ribbed portion.

24. (original) The communications cable according to Claim 13 wherein the first radial section and the second radial section are configured such that the plurality of longitudinally extending wall portions have a sawtooth shaped cross-section.

25. (currently amended) A communications cable comprising:
a cable jacket;

a spacer extending within said cable jacket, the spacer being formed of a polymeric material and having a longitudinally extending center portion and plurality of longitudinally extending wall portions radiating from said center portion such that the cross-section of the spacer is radially symmetric, the longitudinally extending wall portions including a first section having a first thickness, a second section having a second thickness and a third section having a third thickness, the third thickness being different from the first and second thickness, the third section located between the first section and the second section, the spacer and the cable jacket defining a plurality of compartments within the cable jacket; and

a twisted pair of insulated conductors disposed in at least one of the compartments
wherein the compartments are configured such that distances between pairs of twisted pairs of insulated conductors that are in diametrically opposed compartments are substantially the same.

Serial No. 09/591,349
Filed June 9, 2000
Page 6 of 10

26. (original) The communications cable of Claim 25 wherein the first, second and third thickness are different from one another.

27. (original) The communications cable of Claim 25 wherein the first thickness and the second thickness are the same and the third thickness is different from the first thickness.

28. (original) The communications cable of Claim 27 wherein the third thickness is greater than the first thickness.

29. (original) The communications cable of Claim 27 wherein the third thickness is less than the first thickness.

Claims 30-39 canceled.

40. (currently amended) A communications cable comprising:
a cable jacket;
a spacer extending within said cable jacket, the spacer having a longitudinally extending center portion and plurality of longitudinally extending wall portions radiating from said center portion such that the cross-section of the spacer is radially symmetric, the longitudinally extending wall portions having a convex shaped cross-section, the spacer and the cable jacket defining a plurality of compartments within the cable jacket; and
a twisted pair of insulated conductors disposed in at least one of the compartments;
wherein the compartments are configured such that distances between pairs of twisted pairs of insulated conductors that are in diametrically opposed compartments are substantially the same.

41. (original) The communication cable of Claim 40 wherein the convex shaped cross-section is arcuate.

Serial No. 09/591,349
Filed June 9, 2000
Page 7 of 10

42. (original) The communications cable of Claim 40 where the convex shaped cross-section comprises a plurality of faces.

Claims 43-45 canceled.